



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).



CORA AGNES BENNESON.

## CORA AGNES BENNESON

(1851-1919)

Cora Agnes Benneson, lawyer and writer, was born at Quincy, Ill., June 10, 1851, daughter of Robert S. and Electa Ann (Park) Benneson, and granddaughter of Rev. Thomas and Jane (Carlyle) Benneson. The family was originally English, of the name of Benson. The change in spelling was made by Thomas and Jane Benneson after they came to America in 1800. Robert S. Benneson (1807-93), a native of Newark, Del., went to Philadelphia and thence to Quincy, Ill., in 1837, where he became prominently identified with the business and municipal affairs of the city. He was organizer and director of various corporations, president of the school board, alderman for two terms, and mayor during the Civil War. During this crisis he saved the credit of the city by giving his personal notes to meet its obligations. The family represented the best traditions of New England through the mother, who was a direct descendant of Richard Park, one of the first settlers of Cambridge, Mass. In the Benneson home were entertained many men of note, of whom Alcott and Emerson especially made a great impression on Miss Benneson, who, while still in her teens, was inclined to philosophic studies. She was an unusually bright child; when twelve years old she was reading Latin at sight, and had an acquaintance with some of the best literature, displaying at that early age unusual ability in getting at the pith of an argument and in summing up a conversation in a few words of her own. Three years later she had finished the course at the Quincy Academy, the equivalent of a good high school, and at the age of eighteen she was graduated from the Quincy Seminary. Her ambition for a higher education led to her entrance to the University of Michigan in 1875, only five years after women students were first admitted. She completed the four years' course in three, and was graduated in 1878. Her first public appearance in college was in a debate

during her freshman year, in which she took the position that Homer wrote the "Iliad," arguing from the internal evidence of the book, and presenting a forcible argument in an extemporaneous speech, which won the day. During her senior year she was an editor of the "Chronicle," the leading college paper, being the first woman to fill this position. On receiving her degree of A.B. she applied for admission to the law school at Harvard University, but was refused on the ground that the equipment was too limited to receive women; returning to her alma mater, she studied under Judges Cooley, Campbell and Walker and Profs. Wells and Kent, at that time constituting one of the strongest law faculties in America. She was one of two women in a class of 175; served as secretary of her class, presiding officer in the leading debating society, and judge of the Illinois moot-court. She was graduated LL.B. in 1880 and A.M. in 1883, and after being admitted to the bar in Michigan and Illinois spent two years and four months in a journey around the world. She made it a point to visit the law courts of all the principal civilized countries of the world, as well as their governing assemblies, and upon her return delivered lectures on her travels, first in her native city, and subsequently in St. Paul, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, Boston and other leading cities of the East. Miss Benneson was editor of the "Law Reports" of the West Publishing Co. at Paul, Minn., during part of the year 1886, and after holding a fellowship in history at Bryn Mawr College for one year (1887-88) removed to Cambridge, Mass., which thereafter became her permanent residence. She was admitted to the Massachusetts bar in 1894. In the following year she was appointed special commissioner by Gov. Greenhalge, an appointment renewed in 1905 and held by her until her death. Although one of the first women to enter upon the practice of law in New England, she found no antagonism among her fellow lawyers, and gradually acquired a large and successful practice. Ever alert on the affairs of the day, she was particularly posted upon questions concerning government, a subject upon which she was a recognized authority. Papers upon "Executive Discretion in the United States" (1898) and "Federal Guarantees for Maintaining Republican Government in the States" (1899), read before the American

Association for the Advancement of Science, resulted in her election as a Fellow of that society in 1899. These were followed by "The Power of Our Courts to Interpret the Constitution" (1900) and "Corporations and Conscience" (1906) before the same body. Other papers written by her are: "The Quincy Riflemen in the (so called) Mormon War, 1844-46" (1909); "College Fellowship for Women" (1888); "The Opening Way," alumni poem delivered at the University of Michigan (1889); twelve articles on "Palestine Today" (contributed to the Unitarian Magazine) (1890); "The Semitic Museum of Harvard University" (1891); "The College Education of Women" (1894); "The Work of Edward Everett of Quincy in the Quartermaster's Department in Illinois during the Civil War" (1909); besides numerous contributions relating to the education of women.

Miss Benneson's death occurred in Boston, June 8, 1919. She was an honorary member of the Illinois State Historical Society, and at the annual meeting of the society in 1909, gave a fine address on "The Quartermaster's Department in Illinois, 1861-1862."

---

#### MRS. AMELIA FROHME

OLDEST RESIDENT OF QUINCY, DIES AT THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED AND ONE YEARS.

Quincy's oldest citizen, Mrs. Hannah Amelia Frohme, 101 years and 7 months old, died in the home of her daughter-in-law, Mrs. August Grefe, 1228 South Twelfth street, Quincy, Illinois, at 10:30 o'clock Sunday evening, July 20, 1919, after an illness of about a year.

Mrs. Frohme was born in Doerschen, Hanover, Germany, Dec. 3, 1817, and when she was 21 years of age she was married to Christian Frohme, April 26, 1838. In 1846 they decided to come to America and with their two sons arrived in Adams county, locating near Marblehead. In the fall of 1852 Mr. Frohme died and the two sons died in 1873 and 1879.